



NORFOLK MISSION COLLEGE, NORFOLK, VA.

Twenty-two teachers, 653 students, in 1908. Annual expenses, \$11,500.

## Norfolk Mission College, Norfolk, Va.

**W. McKirahan, A.M., D.D., President**

**I**N December, 1882, Rev. Matthew Clarke was sent to Virginia by the United Presbyterian Board of Missions to the Freedmen, to explore needy fields in interest of a mission among the Negroes. He reported that Norfolk, Va., with a school population of 4,000 colored youth, but with an accommodation for only 1,000 in public schools, was a most promising field. In January, 1883, Mr. and Mrs. Clarke were appointed to this field, and opened a school with eleven boys and girls. The second day the number had doubled, the increase was still greater on the third day, and at the end of two weeks there were so many pupils in attendance that Mr. Clarke was obliged to send to the Board for more teachers.

School was held in two of the churches and in Odd Fellows' Hall, and at the end of the school year 467 pupils had been enrolled. In July, 1883, the Board of Missions purchased five lots of land in a central location, and later a substantial three-story school building was erected. The enrollment of the school for 1884 was 986 in the day school and 64 in the night school, mak-

ing a total of 1,050 pupils who received instruction in the school during the year. Additions have been made to the buildings and the equipment of the school, and at no time since 1884 has the enrollment been less than six hundred pupils.

The object of the school is to prepare colored young men and women for teachers of their own people, and to give a solid preparation for those who have the ministry or other professions in view. The Bible is a text-book, and its study is a distinctive feature of the school work. The department includes the model school, the graded school, and the high school, in addition to a sewing department, a cooking department, and several industries.

There are more than three hundred graduates of Norfolk Mission College, not one of whom has ever been arrested for an infraction of social or civil law. While the larger number of the graduates engage in teaching, some are in law, some are physicians, others are musicians, preachers, journalists, etc. The teachers of the school are not satisfied simply to go to their schools Monday morning, and teach until Friday evening, but they are teaching every day from the beginning to the end of the term — in the school room during the five days of the week, in the homes of their pupils, and in other homes, during the evenings and Saturdays, and in the church and Sabbath-school on